

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Funding support for this project was provided by the Albemarle-Pamlico Estuarine Study, administered through the UNC Water Resources Research Institute; supplemental funding was contributed by the Department of Commerce - NOAA Sea Grant and the UNC Sea Grant College, the Department of Botany and the Department of Companion Animal and Special Species Medicine at North Carolina State University, the North Carolina Agricultural Research Foundation, and the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences at North Carolina State University.

We are grateful for the help of many staff from the NC DMF in providing algal samples from fish kills on the Neuse and Pamlico Rivers including Kevin Miller, Karen Lynch, Jess Hawkins, Rich Carpenter, Katy West, Al Hodge, Jim Mulligan, Michael Yount, and Robert Tankard. We also thank B.J. Copeland, Bud Cross, Ron Hodson, Bill Hettler, Neil McNeil, Allyn Powell, Pat Tester, Jose Rivera and Robert May for providing information or samples that led to confirmation of activity by the new toxic dinoflagellate during fish kills in estuarine habitat or aquaculture facilities. Doug Phelps, Grace Evans, Yates Barber, and Tom Quay helped establish a volunteer effort to sample fish kills. Karen Lynch and Steve Kroeger provided background State data on "*Gymnodinium aurantium*" as well as algal bloom/fish kill reports. Research assistance was contributed by Ginny Coleman, Jeff Compton, Fagan Johnson, Gene Morgan, Cheryl Harrington, Zhigan Fan and Victor Clark. Michael Mallin first suggested the dinoflagellate species name; we also extend special thanks to Karen Steidinger in beginning work with us to complete the formal naming procedure, and to Dan Baden for efforts to characterize the toxin. Michael Mallin, Mindy McAuley, NC DEM staff Jimmie Overton, Trish MacPherson and Steve Kroeger, and three anonymous reviewers critiqued the draft report. Finally, we thank Randy Waite, B.J. Copeland, Bud Cross, Bob Holman, and Dave Moreau whose kindled interest and support helped make this study possible.

This report is dedicated to Dr. Lois Pfiester. Her fascinating research on dinoflagellates opened our eyes to the possibilities inherent in their amazing versatility. Dr. Pfiester's earlier descriptions of freshwater "vampyrelloid" dinoflagellates that transform among amoeboid, saccate and flagellated stages provided the insights needed by PI JMB to approach the complex biology of *Pfiesteria piscimorte* (nov.gen., nov.sp.). Her recent death is a great loss ... we owe her much.